

REMARKS

The following remarks are in response to the Official Action mailed March 13, 2006.

In the Official Action claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-15, 17-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,279,417 to *Seaton*. The Examiner essentially argues that the term "single handle" included within claims 1-22 of the present application does not overcome a reference that has multiple handles on a tool. As long as a tool has at least one handle, it will read on the claim accordingly. In response to this rejection, Applicant has amended independent claim 1, 10 and 20 to include the recitation that the product includes "only a single handle". Thus, as included in claims 1-22, the present invention is directed to a product with only one handle and various prior art references, which include more than one handle are not relative to the situation at hand. No new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of this amendment.

It is clearly shown in *Seaton*, that the *Seaton* device includes a first handle and a second handle, thereby clearly removing the *Seaton* reference as prior art. Thus, Applicant asserts that newly amended claims 1, 10 and 20 as well as their dependent claims are in condition for allowance over the cited art and should be deemed patentable.

With regard to claim 23, claim 23 includes the recitation that a product has a handle having a proximal end, an inner portion and a distal end. Claims 23 also includes the recitation that a distal end of the handle is surrounded by at least a portion of an enclosure. But a middle portion of the handle is unencumbered by the enclosure. In claim 23, it is to a single handle that these references are drawn. Thus, claim 23 covers a product having a handle wherein that specific handle

has a middle portion which is unencumbered by packaging but the distal end of the handle is surrounded by the enclosure.

As shown in *Seaton*, the first handle 92 is entirely unencumbered by the packaging, be it a middle portion or a distal end of the handle. In contrast, the second handle 94 in *Seaton* has a distal end that is encumbered by the packaging as well as a middle portion which is also encumbered by the packaging. Thus, *Seaton* does not teach a product having a single handle wherein that specific single handle has a distal end surrounded by a packaging but a middle portion not surrounded and/or encumbered by the packaging. Applicant therefore traverses the Examiner's rejection with regard to claim 23 and asserts that claim 23 should be deemed allowable over *Seaton*.

Claims 8, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over *Seaton* or U.S. Patent No. 5,435,447 to *Weatherford et al.* Regardless as to why the Examiner is citing *Weatherford* and *Seaton*, claims 8, 16 and 22 depend from claims 1, 10 and 20 respectively and as such include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Thus, claims 8, 16 and 22 also include a recitation that the product contains only a single handle. In contrast, *Weatherford* similar to *Seaton* against claims 8, 16 and 22 discloses a product having two handles and not only a single handle. Thus, Applicant asserts that claims 8, 16 and 22 are in condition for allowance and should be deemed patentable.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone Applicant's

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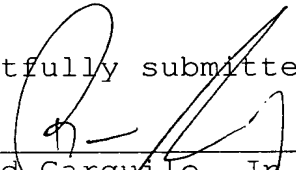
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attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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